

[45 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government have not called these associations for consultations; and

(d) the steps proposed to review the unilateral decision making process of Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill" was enacted by Parliament in 2003. This Act was enacted based on the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, which considered various issues including the representations of Industry/Associations etc. The Act is applicable to all Tobacco Products. Among other provisions, the Act provides for mandatory depiction of statutory warning which includes skull and cross bones and other pictorial warning on all tobacco products.

As per the provisions of the Act, the Government has notified The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labeling) Rules, 2006' on 5th July, 2006, relating to specified warnings, which include skull and cross bones and other pictorial warnings, that are required to be printed on tobacco products packs. The Rules would be implemented with effect from 1st February, 2007.

The Rules were framed after obtaining inputs and after holding discussion(s) with the industry/Associations. The Rules were also properly field tested for their positive public health impact before being notified. The Government has not appointed any Expert Committee to study the impact of new rules on anti-tobacco legislation as the Rules are yet to be implemented. No representations were received from Virginia Tobacco Growers Association..

#### **National Agriculture Innovation Project**

\*357. PROF. ALKA BALRAM  
KSHATRIYA: SHRIMATI  
SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has launched a Rs. 1170 crores World Bank

assisted agriculture research programme called the National Agriculture Innovation Project which focus on innovation in agriculture technology;

(b) whether Government also plans to launch a special mission to promote cultivation of bio-fuel crops like Jatropha, Karanj crops like sugarcane, kassava, sweet sorghum, maize, sugarbeets, etc.;

(c) whether the need for making bio-fuel cultivation is economically viable for farmers as an alternative crops; and

(d) whether the project would facilitate and accelerate the sustainable transformation of Indian agriculture so that it can support poverty alleviation and income generation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRISHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Government has launched Rs. 1189.99 crore (US\$ 250 million) National Agricultural Innovation Project to strengthen the Agriculture Research Programme which focus on Innovation in Agriculture Technology.

(b) Government of India has plans to launch a bio-diesel mission covering Jatropha and Karanj crops with Ministry of Rural Development as Nodal Ministry.

(c) Efforts are on to make bio-fuel cultivation economically viable for farmers as an alternative crop.

(d) The project would facilitate and accelerate the sustainable transformation of Indian agriculture to support poverty alleviation and income generation through innovations in research on production to consumption system, sustainable livelihood improvement particularly in disadvantaged region and enhancing productivity and quality through strengthening basic and strategic research in agricultural sciences.

**Rate of production of paddy**

†\*358. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:  
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 40 per cent *i.e.* 16 million hectare paddy

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.